

we can and must do better. Our primary focus must be on getting to those who are still stranded and need immediate assistance. Once that is accomplished I feel strongly that Congress must take a critical look at this response effort.

This is a moment of national sorrow. Sorrow at not preventing the preventable and sorrow for the tragic circumstances that came to be. Yet it is also a moment of national unity that is truly heart-warming.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I send my thoughts and prayers to all those affected by Hurricane Katrina and I thank all those brave and generous Americans who are working to bring assistance and relief to the region. The outpouring of generosity from Americans across the country can make us all proud.

CONGRATULATING THE TRACY NATIONAL LITTLE LEAGUE ALL-STAR TEAM

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Tracy National Little League All-star team, from my hometown in Tracy, California. This group of 12-year-olds rose up through the ranks, first becoming District 67 champs, then Section 3 champs, then Northern California champs, and finally Western Region Runner-ups.

Players Casey Anklam, Brock Blades, Jeramee Campbell, Dominic D'souze, Alex Flores, Michael Hager, Jacob Lopez, Kyle Moses, Tyler Sanfilippo, Tyler Trew, Jacob Valdez, Joshua Wesley and Casey Wichman showed great talent and teamwork. Their hard work and dedication really paid off, taking them nearly all the way to the Little League World Series. Manager Emmett Lee and Coaches John Moses and Rob Wichman provide great leadership for the boys, and were instrumental in their success.

As many of you know, I am a big baseball fan. My son Richie plays on his high school team, and each year I look forward to playing in the Congressional Baseball Game. I am very proud of these kids from Tracy, and know that the skills they learn on the diamond—teamwork, competition, dedication—will serve them well throughout their lives. I look forward to following their progress again next season and know they will be even better.

IN HONOR OF THE WARD'S 75TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise here today to pay tribute to a special couple from Caraway, AR, Ode and Beatrice Ward, who will celebrate their 75th wedding anniversary on September 20, 2005. This is a significant milestone and one that only a very few are fortunate enough to celebrate in their lifetime.

Ode and Beatrice Ward met in Leachville, AR, and decided to marry in the fall of 1930.

The couple made their home in northeast Arkansas and spent the next 42 years growing cotton, soybeans, and milo. Throughout the years, the Wards were blessed with three children, James E. Ward, Vondella W. Davis, and Lois M. Meadows, and now have the pleasure of spending time with six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Their love for each other and their family extends to their neighbors as well, where they continue to stay involved in their community. They remain active members in the political process and are often seen participating in local activities and events. Their energy is truly remarkable and perhaps the secret to a long and fulfilling life.

A 75th wedding anniversary reminds us that marriage is not an instant achievement but a covenant that requires love, patience, and respect. Ode and Beatrice Ward have perfected this commitment to each other and are truly blessed to have a strong marriage, their family, and a lifetime of memories. As they live each day by their wedding vows, they continue to inspire all who are fortunate to know them.

On September 20, 2005, Ode and Beatrice Ward will join many of their family and friends at a celebration to honor their 75 years of marriage. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating them on this joyous occasion and sending our best wishes for many more years of love and happiness.

TRIBUTE TO MARTHA BOGLE

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one who was an extraordinary force behind the recent designation of the Congaree Swamp National Monument as a National Park. When Martha Bogle came to this 22,200-acre National Parks Service site near Columbia, SC, in 1995, about 50,000 people each year visited the old-growth bottomland hardwood forest that was designated a national monument. Today that figure has tripled and it is due in large measure to the hard work and dedication of Ms. Bogle.

Upon her arrival, Ms. Bogle realized the majesty of the towering pines and giant hardwoods, but access to the facility was so poor that few visitors were enjoying these amazing vistas. As the new superintendent, Ms. Bogle looked for a cost-effective way the community could join in making this hidden jewel more accessible. Her tenacity paid off when she convinced the South Carolina National Guard to partner with the Parks Service in building a new entrance road and visitors center. The result was an award-winning, 12,000 square foot visitors center with wonderful educational tools and roads and parking lots that could better accommodate visitors. This was quite an accomplishment for Ms. Bogle's first foray as a park superintendent.

Still her vision for the site was not complete. With improved facilities and access, Ms. Bogle embarked upon a campaign to turn the Congaree Swamp National Monument into a national park. This was an even greater undertaking because only 52 of the National Parks Service's 388 sites were designated as na-

tional parks. Yet Ms. Bogle found allies in my former colleague, Senator Fritz Hollings, and myself, and we joined her and the many "Friends of the Congaree" in the fight to secure the designation. After some difficult days and lots of hard work on the part of Ms. Bogle and many others, on November 10, 2003, the President signed legislation that officially changed the Congaree Swamp National Monument into the Congaree National Park. In addition, we were able to include in the legislation, at Ms. Bogle's request, a 4,600-acre expansion of the site. As she departs, Ms. Bogle is working to acquire the additional property from willing sellers.

Ms. Bogle's love of nature began in her childhood in a small Tennessee town. Upon her graduation from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville with a Bachelor's in Botany, Ms. Bogle wasted no time in securing a position with the National Parks Service. Her 26-year career has taken her to nine National Parks Service sites and one national wildlife refuge.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you, and my colleagues to join me today in thanking Martha Bogle for her tremendous contributions to the Congaree National Park, and wish her well as she leaves South Carolina to become assistant superintendent of the Blue Ridge Parkway. No matter where she serves in the National Park Service, Ms. Bogle brings an infectious joy in her surroundings and a commitment that will insure our Nation's natural treasures are preserved and protected for many generations to come.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CHAVONTREAL ALLEN, RECIPIENT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL FREEDOM SCHOLARSHIP

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the superior academic performance of Chavontreal Allen, a recipient of this year's Presidential Freedom Scholarship. Thirteen students in the 26th Congressional District are receiving this special recognition.

This award recognizes outstanding service and citizenship initiatives by the students who were nominated, and provides an opportunity to acknowledge their leadership. Administered by Learn and Serve America, the scholarship provides \$500 in Federal funds, matched with \$500 from a community organization or business obtained for the student by their high school or Boys and Girls Club. Winners must have completed at least 100 hours of community service, either through a school-based service-learning program or independently through service at a nonprofit or faith-based organization.

Chavontreal is a member of the Frisco Boys and Girls Clubs of Collins County. This organization contributed matching funds of \$500.

Over 38,000 students to date have received this award and I extend my sincere congratulations to Chavontreal Allen for being one of them. This student's contribution and services should serve as inspiration to those who wish to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

TAIWAN'S AGRICULTURAL TRADE
GOODWILL MISSION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that the Republic of China, Taiwan, has sent an Agricultural Trade Goodwill Mission to Capitol Hill and there will be a signing ceremony between the Mission and its American grain suppliers on Wednesday, September 14, 2005, at 9 a.m. in the Mansfield Room of the Capitol Building.

It is also my understanding that Taiwan's Goodwill Mission will sign letters of intent to purchase 14.5 million metric tons, equivalent to 559 million bushels, of U.S. wheat, soybeans and corn in 2006 and 2007. The mission's tannery group will also sign a statement with American suppliers to buy up to 6 million pieces of "wet salted hide" and "wet blue hide" for years 2006 and 2007. The total value of all the purchases will amount to \$3.1 billion.

I welcome Taiwan's Agricultural Trade Goodwill Mission to Capitol Hill. Two years ago, the same Agricultural Trade Goodwill Mission came to the Hill and signed letters of intent agreeing to purchase \$2.87 billion for the years 2004 and 2005. The last mission planned to buy 15.1 metric tons, approximately 581 bushels, of wheat, soybeans and corns and 4 million pieces of hide. As of June 2005, Taiwan had already purchased 10.5 metric tons, equivalent to 404 million bushels, of U.S. grain. And in 2004, Taiwan purchased an additional 3 million pieces of U.S. hide in 2004. Given Taiwan's long history as an excellent customer for U.S. agricultural products, it is reasonable to expect Taiwan to fulfill all its agreed-upon commitments and more.

Taiwan has had a very strong trade relations with our Nation. Year after year, Taiwan has imported U.S. cattle hides, U.S. hog skins, soybean, corn and wheat and other agricultural products, amounting to billions of dollars for American producers. We hope this trend will continue in the future as our agricultural exports to Taiwan greatly benefit our grain exporters and farmers.

I join my colleagues in welcoming members of Taiwan's Agricultural Trade Goodwill to Capitol Hill and I wish Dr. Chen Hsi-Huang, Mr. Kuo Hsin-Hong and Mr. Wang Tsong-ming, heads of The Soybean and Corn Delegation, The Wheat Delegation and The Hide Delegation, and members of the delegation a pleasant journey as they travel to Iowa, Ohio, Missouri, Montana, Idaho, North Dakota, Kansas, and Texas to meet with state and local officials and suppliers.

We also hope they will return to Capitol Hill again next year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, on September 7, 2005, I was unavoidably detained

and missed rollcall votes numbered 456 and 457. Rollcall vote 456 was on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 3650, a bill to allow United States Courts to conduct business during emergency conditions, and for other purposes. Rollcall vote 457 was on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 3169, a bill to provide the Secretary of Education with waiver authority for students who are eligible for Pell Grants who are adversely affected by a natural disaster.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 456 and 457.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL AP-
PROPRIATIONS ACT TO MEET IM-
MEDIATE NEEDS ARISING FROM
THE CONSEQUENCES OF HURRI-
CANE KATRINA, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 2, 2005

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3645, which will provide an initial installment of desperately needed supplemental funding for disaster relief efforts in the Gulf Coast region. Hurricane Katrina has left untold devastation and loss in its wake, and it is critical that we do everything we can to get assistance to those who need it without delay.

I have received dozens of calls this week from Rhode Islanders who are angry and frustrated by the horrific images they are seeing from Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. They are right to be outraged by the utter failure of our government to ensure the prompt evacuation and rescue of stranded residents or to deliver needed medical supplies, food and clean drinking water to the tens of thousands of people whose very survival depends on it.

The Federal reaction to this crisis has been slow and ill-coordinated, which is particularly troubling in light of the advance notice and warning systems we are able to rely upon in hurricane and other natural disaster situations. I am deeply concerned not only about the response to this disaster, but about how much worse it could have been had we been given no warning, as in the case of a terrorist attack.

Four years after September 11th and tens of billions of dollars later, we should have been better prepared for this disaster. We have received countless assurances from the Administration that this Nation is ready and equipped to keep our citizens safe, but our citizens have just come face to face with the truth, and it tells a shockingly different story.

In the weeks and months to come, there will be many, many tough questions to be answered on the part of Federal officials and others. As a member of the Homeland Security Committee, I look forward to working with my colleagues to get to the bottom of this national failure as we carefully examine what went wrong, how the region and Federal Government could have been better prepared, and what must be done to ensure this kind of situation is never repeated. We must look at the

organization of FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security, funding for disaster response, coordination between domestic agencies and the military, interoperable communications, public health preparedness, critical infrastructure protection and much more.

However, as the crisis continues, it is important that we focus on the critical days ahead and concentrate our efforts on ensuring that we are doing everything in our power from this point forward. Hundreds of thousands of displaced residents, many of whom have lost everything, are looking to us for help, and we can not let them down. Today's supplemental appropriation will provide an infusion of funding to allow immediate needs to be met, and my colleagues and I will be ready to provide whatever additional assistance may become necessary as the response progresses.

Today, my thoughts and prayers go out to all those who have lost loved ones, had their homes and livelihoods destroyed, and who continue to suffer in terrible conditions, not knowing what the future may hold. I also want to express my deepest appreciation to those who are working to offer whatever assistance they can. Thousands of National Guard troops, local first responders, relief workers and others are putting their lives on hold to help, and we should all do whatever we can to aid in those efforts as well.

Thank you Mr. Speaker, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3645.

RETIREMENT OF CHIEF JOHN
WALSH

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements and service of Willimantic Fire Department Chief John Walsh, who has served the Connecticut community of Willimantic for more than two decades. He has served as a firefighter for more than 50 years.

Chief Walsh began his career as a volunteer firefighter in 1954. In January 1960 he joined the Hartford Fire Department where he demonstrated a high degree of professionalism and ability. In 1968 he was promoted to Lieutenant and in 1980 he achieved the rank of Captain. In December 1983 he became Chief of the Willimantic Fire Department.

His work on behalf of his fellow firefighters extended beyond the community. In 1988 and 1989 he was President of the Connecticut Fire Chiefs and he is a member of the New England Fire Chiefs and the National Fire Protection Association.

Firefighters are on call seven days a week, 12 months a year. There are no holidays for firefighters. Tragedy never takes a holiday and when it strikes a community, firefighters are among the first to respond.

Individuals are not recognized for what they have taken but for what they have given. Chief John Walsh's family, colleagues and friends honor him for what he has given to his community. I am proud to add my voice to theirs. Through his commitment and character he has made Willimantic a better place in which to live, work and raise a family.

Thank you, Chief Walsh, for your service.